The Kabul Times

www.thekabultimes.com | twitter.com/thekabultimes | info@thekabultimes.com | facebook.com/thekabultimes

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

Founded in 1962

Saratan 07-1405 Sunday 28 June 2026 INo: 80 -Vol: LXIV

Kabul 35 Sunny | Kandahar 44 Sunny | Herat 43 Sunny | Jalalabad 44 Sunny | Mazar-e-Sharif 43 Sunny | Bamyan 22 Sunny

Youth Development, Capacity Building Discussed, Ministry

KABUL: The Director General for the Preservation of Jihadi Heritage of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Mufti Mohammad Tahir Ahmad, in a meeting with the provincial affairs director of Roshan Telecom, Mohammad Asif Sharifi, discussed youth development, capacity building, and technical training opportunities.

The Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Saturday that both sides discussed the challenges faced by youth and explored ways to improve access to technical and professional skills development programs.

Mohammad Asif Sharifi said the company is committed to providing improved, efficient, and youth-friendly telecommunication and internet services tailored to modern needs.

The Directorate of Preservation of Jihadi Heritage proposed several initiatives to empower youth, including special telecom and internet packages for freelancers and students, as well as the establishment of modern training centres to enhance technical skills.

The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate Has No Alternative, Delawar Says

KABUL: Shaikh Shahabuddin Delawar, head of the Commission for Contact with Afghan Personalities, has said the Islamic Emirate has no alternative, according to RTA on Saturday.

Delawar said that the Islamic system in Afghanistan operates under the leadership of a single Amir, and obedience to the country's leadership is a fundamental principle of the current system.

He stated that, under the commission's regulations, no individual or institution is permitted to create difficulties for Afghan personalities who have returned to the country.

Delawar said the Islamic Emirate's achievements in reconstruction, nationwide security, the eradication of narcotics, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts reflect the progress made under the current system.

He also reaffirmed the commission's commitment to facilitating the return of Afghan personalities and ensuring they receive support in accordance with the law.

The Kabul Times

Seminar on Leader's Decree to Prevent Vicious Traditions Held in Zabul

ZABUL: A one-day seminar was held by the Department of Information and Culture of Zabul Province to raise public awareness about Decree No. 17 issued by the Leader of the Islamic Emirate, focusing on the prevention of harmful social customs and practices.

The seminar also included the launch of a new book titled "Notables and Heroes of Zabul", attended by officials from the Information and Culture Department, religious scholars, media representatives, and a large number of youths, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Saturday.

During the seminar, Decree No. 17 was read and its key objectives and implications were explained to participants in detail, the statement said.

The participants described the decree as an important step toward social reform, the elimination of harmful traditions, and the promotion of a healthier and more Islamic society.

Participants called such awareness programs highly important and stressed that efforts to combat negative customs and promote Islamic values should be strengthened.

They also pledged to share the information gained from the seminar with others in their communities.

The Kabul Times

MoU Signed to Support Youth in Daikundi

KABUL: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth $150,000 has been signed between the Youth Affairs Directorate of the General Directorate for the Preservation of Jihadi Values of the Ministry of Information and Culture and TLO (The Liaison Office) to implement a community development project in Daikundi Province.

The MoU was signed by Mufti Mohammad Tahir Ahmad, Director General for the Preservation of Jihadi Values, and Engineer Abdul Rahim Khurram, representative of TLO, the ministry said in a statement the other day.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of youth, nurturing their talents, and enhancing their professional and practical skills in the province, the statement said.

Under the one-year agreement, a range of educational, social, and development programs will be delivered to youth in Daikundi, enabling them to play a more active and constructive role in their communities, the statement added.

Officials described the partnership as an important step toward empowering young people, increasing their social participation, and promoting sustainable community development.

The Kabul Times

Mawlavi Rashid Calls for High-Quality Implementation of Infrastructure Projects

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Rashid, Kabul Mayor, called for the accelerated and high-quality implementation of ongoing infrastructure projects in the capital during his field inspections on Saturday.As part of his monitoring visits, Mawlavi Rashid inspected several major development projects, including the overpass construction project in front of the Kabul provincial office, the Bagrami road stretching from Shtanazai Square to Bini Hissar, and the first phase of the Bagrami–Lata Band road leading to the Kabul–Jalalabad Highway, the Kabul Municipality said in a statement.

During the inspections, he instructed engineers, contractors, and relevant officials to ensure that all construction work is carried out strictly according to approved technical standards. Mawlavi Rashid stressed that no form of negligence or low-quality work would be accepted under any circumstances.

He warned that any work found to be below standard would be rejected and, if necessary, dismantled and reconstructed in accordance with proper engineering requirements.

The Kabul Mayor also directed relevant officials to make efficient use of available resources and ensure that all projects are completed within the set timeframe.

The Kabul Times

Six Water Supply Projects to Be Launched in Parwan

CHARIKAR: Construction work worth 42.895 million afghanis has begun on six drinking water supply networks in Parwan province, the provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department said in a statement on Saturday.

The networks will be constructed in the Bagram and Jabal al-Siraj districts of the province, the statement said, adding that the water supply networks will provide clean and safe drinking water to 2,218 families in the targeted areas, helping address long-standing shortages of potable water and reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. The projects are being financed by the United Nations Children's Fund and implemented under the supervision of the Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the statement said.

Local officials said the initiative is part of ongoing efforts to expand access to safe drinking water and improve living conditions in underserved communities across the province.

The Kabul Times

3 Killed, 3 Injured in Laghman Road Crash

MEHTARLAM: At least three people have been killed and three others injured in a traffic accident in the Alishing district of Laghman Province on Saturday.

The provincial police said in a statement that the accident occurred when a passenger vehicle lost control and overturned, resulting in multiple casualties at the scene.

The injured were immediately transported to a nearby health center for medical treatment, while officials confirmed that their condition is stable, the statement said.

Traffic accidents remain a serious concern across Afghanistan, with officials and experts frequently citing speeding, poor road conditions, driver negligence, and technical faults in vehicles as major contributing factors.

The Kabul Times

Panjshir Launches Licensing Process for 66 Mineral Extraction

BAZARAK: The Directorate of Mines and Petroleum of Panjshir Province said in a statement on Saturday that it has begun issuing extraction licenses for 66 types of minerals in the province.

Mawlavi Mohammad Qasim Amiri, head of the provincial mines and petroleum department, said the process has been initiated under the decree of the Leader of the Islamic Emirate and in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum. He added that the extraction of beryl and green garnet is currently underway, while surveys and identification of other mineral resources in the province are ongoing.

Amiri said the initiative aims to expand investment, attract investment, and ensure that natural resources are utilized in a structured and lawful manner under government supervision.

The Kabul Times

International-Daily

WWW.TheKabulTimes.com

Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash, Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Engagement, Not Isolation, the Path Forward for Afghanistan

The recent remarks by Sergey Lebedev, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), at the Primakov Readings Forum highlight a critical truth saying: "Isolating Afghanistan is not a solution." Instead, deeper and stronger engagement with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan offers the only viable path toward regional stability and prosperity.

Afghanistan today stands at the frontline of the fight against insurgency and terrorism. Groups such as ISIS-K continue to pose a grave threat not only to Afghans but to the wider Eurasian region. The CIS's pragmatic dialogue with the Islamic Emirate's authorities reflects a recognition that cooperation with Afghanistan's current system is essential. Cooperation with the Islamic Emirate to combat terrorism and narcotics production strengthens collective security and reduces the risks of instability spilling across borders.

Isolation, by contrast, leads to stagnation and despair. It deprives Afghanistan of opportunities to contribute to regional economic and transit projects, while simultaneously weakening the region's ability to secure itself. As Lebedev rightly noted, Eurasian security cannot be ensured without Afghanistan's participation. The country's geographic position makes it a natural hub for trade, energy, and connectivity. To exclude Afghanistan is to undermine the very foundations of regional growth.

Political analysts echo this sentiment arguing that constructive engagement will positively impact Afghanistan's development and regional prosperity. Regional economic growth is impossible without Afghanistan's inclusion. These perspectives underscore the reality that Afghanistan's central position in Eurasia is not a liability but an asset, if harnessed through cooperation rather than neglect.

The CIS, comprising Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and the Central Asian republics, has a unique opportunity to lead by example. While formal recognition of the Islamic Emirate remains limited, practical diplomacy and economic collaboration can lay the groundwork for stability. By integrating Afghanistan into Eurasian transit corridors and economic initiatives, CIS states can help transform the country from a source of insecurity into a partner for growth.

The choice before the region is stark as continuation of policies of isolation that lead to dead ends, or embrace pragmatic engagement that strengthens collective security and prosperity. Afghanistan's current authorities may not enjoy universal recognition, but they are the reality on the ground. Working with them is not an endorsement, it is a necessity for peace.

Isolating Afghanistan is neither practical nor productive. Stronger engagement with the Islamic Emirate will reinforce the fight against terrorism, bolster regional security, and unlock economic potential across Eurasia. The CIS's approach should serve as a model. Dialogue, cooperation, and inclusion, rather than exclusion and isolation. Only through such engagement can Afghanistan and its neighbors move toward a more secure and prosperous future.

Time to Prioritize Funding for Nutrition Programs across Afghanistan

By: Mashal Noori

The number of children facing acute malnutrition is on rise in some provinces of Afghanistan. Severe funding shortfalls combined with climate shocks have led to mass facility closures and supply stockouts. Aid agencies operating in Afghanistan are calling for immediate international and domestic support to expand inpatient centers and prevent irreversible harm to vulnerable mothers and children in the country. Doctors without Borders (MSF) in a report released late last week reported an alarming increase in the number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition with medical complications requiring lifesaving treatment in its therapeutic feeding centres in southern Afghanistan.

"Children are reaching us far too late in the process, and they often present in critical condition with preventable medical complications," says Ana Lilia Banda, MSF medical coordinator in southern Afghanistan. "This reflects not only worsening food insecurity, but also the breakdown of systems designed to detect and treat malnutrition at an early stage. An effective response requires different elements of care that are all working – from outpatient services that identify and treat uncomplicated cases, to inpatient care for critically-ill children. Restoring this full range of malnutrition services is essential to prevent avoidable deaths."

According to the MSF statement, between January and April 2026, the admission of severely malnourished children to the MSF-supported inpatient therapeutic feeding centre (ITFC) in southern Afghanistan increased by over 30 per cent on average compared to the same period over the last three years — with most children being younger than one-year old. The statement says this the increase signals a deterioration in the food security situation people in Afghanistan are facing, adding that the critical situation is placing significant strain on MSF's capacity to respond effectively to people's needs. It says MSF is urgently calling for the prioritization of funding and resources for nutrition support to avert further deterioration of the nutritional situation in southern Afghanistan.

Significant reductions in international funding since early 2025 have led to the suspension or closure of 445 health facilities, including 203 mobile health and nutrition teams in 2025, according to data shared by the World Health Organization (WHO). These services previously played a key role in community-based screening, early detection, and provision of care. The situation is further compounded by recurrent droughts, which have reduced crop yields and progressively intensified food insecurity and economic. At the same time, border closures linked to regional geopolitical tensions have disrupted the supply chain of therapeutic food into the country and increased the food prices, undermining its availability and worsening overall access to food for people, particularly affecting pregnant women and mothers.

"Malnutrition is not only a medical issue but also a social issue," says Banda. "Exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life followed by appropriate complementary feeding is essential to meet an infant's nutritional needs. But when mothers themselves do not have enough to eat, how are they expected to feed their babies? We are seeing many malnourished children less than one year of age, often accompanied by their mothers or caretakers who are also in need of care."

Based on the MSF report, since the beginning of 2026, admissions to the MSF-supported inpatient therapeutic feeding centre (ITFC) at Boost Provincial Hospital in Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand reached a monthly record-high when compared to same period over the last five years. According to the report, between January and April 2026, admissions of severe acute malnourished children with medical complications were over 1,500 children, which is more than double the number recorded during the same period in 2022.

Between January and April 2026, MSF's ITFC in Kandahar admitted over 570 malnourished children. In addition, more than 300 patients were redirected to other health facilities. The demand for treatment is far greater than what MSF teams can support even after the increase in our capacity. MSF has already scaled up its response in Helmand and Kandahar. However, with the seasonal peak in malnutrition now underway, we are deeply concerned that rising needs will continue to outpace the current humanitarian response.

MSF calls on donors, health authorities and relevant organizations to urgently priorities and restore international and domestic funding for nutrition programmes across Afghanistan. An uninterrupted supply of specially formulated food and essential medical supplies must be also ensured. Without immediate action, the crisis risks worsening, leaving more children without access to the lifesaving care they urgently need.

MSF runs seven projects in Bamyan, Helmand, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, Khost and Kunduz, with a particular focus on delivering secondary healthcare services. Currently, MSF is providing nutritional support for malnourished children in Helmand, Herat and Kandahar provinces. In 2025, 9,388 children were admitted to MSF-supported inpatient therapeutic feeding centres, and 3,166 children were enrolled in outpatient therapeutic feeding centres.

The KABUL TIMES DAILY 03

Local Production, Private Investment on the Rise in Zabul

By: Ehsanullah Wolasmal

In recent years, efforts to promote and support domestic production in Afghanistan have increased. With improvements in the security situation, greater attention has been given to the industrial and manufacturing sectors in many provinces, and a number of small and medium-sized factories have expanded their activities.

The growth of these production centers has not only increased the supply of locally made products but has also created employment opportunities for dozens and hundreds of people.

Economic experts believe that using and supporting domestic products plays an important role in economic growth, reducing imports, and creating job opportunities. For this reason, people across various parts of the country have recently shown greater interest in locally produced goods compared to the past and are trying to meet their needs through products manufactured inside Afghanistan.

Zabul, one of Afghanistan's southern provinces, is considered among the areas that remained behind in terms of development due to several decades of conflict and lack of government attention.

However, after the Islamic Emirate came to power in Afghanistan, interest in investment has increased in Zabul, as well as in other provinces. Wealthy individuals have paid more attention to developing the industrial sector.

Industrialists and factory managers in Zabul say that public interest in domestic products has increased significantly in recent times.

Abdullah, the manager of a factory in the province, says that growing public demand has increased production levels and improved the market for locally manufactured goods.

He added that government institutions have also started using domestic products, which has improved their businesses and provided employment opportunities for many people in these factories.

Abdullah said, "Around 70 to 80 percent of the people of Zabul use domestic products. Compared to the past, we have expanded our activities, and our work is going well. Since the arrival of the Islamic Emirate, interest in locally produced goods has increased inside the country."

The reports about the expansion of the domestic products market come at a time when a large commercial market worth $1.5 million has recently been built and inaugurated by a private investor in Qalat city, the center of Zabul province.

The manager of the market, Nematullah, said that the aim behind establishing the commercial center was to expand trade and provide better facilities for people.

He added that the market contains 100 shops and its construction was completed within one year.

Nematullah said, "This market was built within one year and cost $1.5 million. We have planned to dedicate one section of it to carpet businesses and the remaining parts to other commercial activities."

Government officials in Zabul describe the construction of the market as a positive step, saying that such investments can pave the way for future business development.

Hassanullah Habibi, a representative of Qalat Municipality, said the municipality plans to establish similar commercial associations in the future to help expand trade activities.

Habibi said, "The municipality plans to organize similar commercial areas in the future, whether in government-owned markets or private markets."

Officials from the Zabul Directorate of Industry and Commerce say that currently 10 production factories are registered in the province, and their activities are progressing well.

Mohammad Zaman, head of industrial parks and commercial affairs at the directorate, said that the government has allocated 1,000 acres of land for an industrial park in Zabul, and efforts are underway to begin its construction.

Mohammad Zaman said, "The industrial park project has been approved, and 1,000 acres of land have been allocated to us. Construction work will begin in the near future."

Following the establishment of nationwide security, industrial production has expanded not only in Zabul but also in many other provinces across Afghanistan.

Water Dams Among Development Projects Accelerated to Support Returnees' Living Conditions, Minister

KABUL: The country's Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Mawlavi Abdul Latif Mansoor, has said that efforts have been stepped up to accelerate water supply and development projects aimed at improving the living conditions of returnees and local communities across the country.

Mullah Mansoor made the remarks during a meeting with Laghman Governor Qari Bakhtiar Muaz, where they discussed the situation and challenges faced by returning migrants, particularly access to safe drinking water, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"The priority is being given to identifying critical areas where basic services are lacking, particularly in regions hosting large numbers of returning migrants," the statement quoted the minister as saying.

He also said the focus of ongoing programs is on expanding access to clean and safe drinking water, which remains one of the most urgent needs for many returnee families, and development projects are being implemented based on priority assessments and the principle of balanced development.

The Kabul Times

Afghanistan and the Prospect of Becoming an Active Regional Actor

By Mohammad Mushtaq

Introduction

Due to its geopolitical, geostrategic, and geoeconomic position in the heart of Asia, Afghanistan has always attracted the attention of regional powers. This unique location has turned Afghanistan into a connecting point between Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and East Asia, increasing its potential to play the role of an active regional actor. after fath by islamic emirate on2021, Afghanistan's foreign policy has gradually moved toward an economy-oriented approach, focusing more on regional cooperation and expanding relations with neighbour countries and Central Asia.

In this process, trade, transit, economic cooperation, and cultural relations have become the main pillars of Afghanistan's regional policy and have created a new opportunity for the country to redefine its place in regional affairs. In the past, Afghanistan was mostly viewed as a field of competition among major powers and a source of security crises. However, developments in recent years show that the country is trying to present a new image of itself — an image in which Afghanistan is not seen as a threat, but as a bridge connecting regional economies, cultures, and markets. This shift in perspective has also encouraged regional countries to adopt a more practical and realistic approach toward Afghanistan.

Regional Cooperation and the Expansion of Economic and Cultural Relations

In recent years, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has tried to develop its relations with regional countries based on shared economic interests, trade cooperation, and mutual respect. This approach has gradually helped Afghanistan move away from relative isolation and become part of regional economic processes.

Central Asian countries, especially Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan, no longer view Afghanistan only through a security lens. Instead, they increasingly see the country as an important transit route and a promising economic market. Among these countries, Uzbekistan has played a major role in expanding economic cooperation with Afghanistan. Relations between the two countries have mainly focused on trade, transit, railway development, and the expansion of joint markets. Tashkent considers Afghanistan the shortest route to South Asian markets, which is why it has increased investment in transport and transit projects. Afghanistan, on the other hand, is trying to use this opportunity to become a regional trade crossroads.

In a recent event , Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, met with the head of Uzbekistan's railway authority in Balkh province. Uzbek officials announced plans to build a new 1.5-kilometer railway line at Nayebabad station along with several warehouses for loading and unloading goods. The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the project and instructed the Ministry of Public Works to coordinate technical and construction work jointly with the Uzbek side. Such projects can further strengthen regional cooperation.

Turkmenistan is also considered one of Afghanistan's most important economic partners. Projects such as TAPI, electricity transmission, and the expansion of energy networks have increased the importance of relations between the two countries. These are not only economic projects but also part of a wider process of regional connectivity that could transform Afghanistan into an energy transit corridor between Central Asia and South Asia. Such developments strengthen Afghanistan's geoeconomic position and increase economic interdependence among regional countries.

Afghanistan's relations with Tajikistan have also entered a new phase of economic and cultural cooperation alongside security issues. The shared linguistic, cultural, and historical ties between the two countries provide a suitable foundation for stronger relations. Border trade, transit cooperation, and energy projects are among the main areas of engagement. In addition, cultural and civilizational ties between the peoples of the two countries play an important role in reducing political tensions and increasing regional interaction.

Kazakhstan has also expanded its economic presence in Afghanistan in recent years. The export of food products, growing trade relations, and increasing attention to the Afghan market form part of Astana's regional policy toward Kabul. Kazakhstan views Afghanistan as part of the broader framework of Central Asian economic cooperation and seeks to play a more active regional role through trade and transit development.

Alongside economic cooperation, the cultural dimension of Afghanistan's regional relations is also highly important. Shared cultural, linguistic, religious, and historical values among the nations of the region create significant opportunities for stronger cooperation. Cultural engagement can also help strengthen political and economic trust because sustainable regional cooperation cannot be built solely on economic interests; it also requires social and cultural connections.

Today, regional countries understand the importance of regional connectivity more than ever before. Major economic projects such as TAPI, CASA-1000, railway expansion, and the creation of trade corridors are all part of efforts to establish a new structure of regional cooperation with Afghanistan at its center. These projects can transform Afghanistan from a landlocked country into a regional connecting point. If this process continues, Afghanistan can use its geographical location as an economic advantage and generate sustainable transit revenues.

Alongside economic issues, security remains one of the key elements of regional cooperation. Central Asian countries are concerned about threats such as terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking, and therefore consider cooperation

See P4

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

Saratan 07-1405 Sunday 28 June 2026 INo: 80-Vol: LXIV

The Kabul Times – the state-run newspaper–welcomes your advertisements. You can send your ADs to the daily to help you connect with your customers.
+93 700 330 184 Aryagulzar833@gmail.com

Currency	Amount	AFN
USD	01	64.70
GBP	01	85.20
INR	1000	748
PKR	1000	223
EUR	01	74.00
IRR	1000	0.40
AED	01	17.59

SPORTS

ACB Set to Welcome Uzbekistan for One-Off T20 Match in Khost

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has announced that it will host the Uzbekistan National Cricket Team for a special one-off T20 match on July 10 in Khost province, as part of the 11th edition of the e& Shpageeza Cricket League 2026, powered by Super Cola.
The friendly encounter will take place at the Rahmat Wali Masroori Cricket Ground in Khost, starting at 9:00 AM Afghanistan Time. The Afghan XI will compete against the visiting Uzbek team in a match aimed at strengthening cricket ties and supporting the development of the sport in the region. The game will be broadcast live through various television and digital platforms in Afghanistan and internationally.
The match comes under the Cricket Development Support Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the ACB and the Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan in December last year.
ACB CEO Naseeb Khan highlighted Afghanistan's commitment to helping emerging cricket nations, saying the board has already supported Uzbekistan through training programs, workshops, and specialized fast-bowling camps for Uzbek players.
He also emphasized that stronger cricket cooperation would further strengthen the friendly relations between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, which have expanded in recent years in areas including healthcare, politics, and trade.
The upcoming match represents another step toward regional cricket cooperation and provides Uzbekistan with valuable international exposure. **The Kabul Times**

Herat Cycling Team Completes 395-Kilometer Journey from Kabul to Nuristan

A five-member cycling team from Herat has successfully completed a 395-kilometer journey from Kabul to Parun, the capital of Nuristan Province, in a campaign promoting national security, stability, and environmental awareness.
The team, representing the Etihad Cycling Club of Herat, organized the ride with the support of the Herat Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in coordination with its counterpart in Kabul. Led by Basir Ahmad Amiri, the cyclists traveled through Kabul, Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar, and finally reached Parun after covering the challenging route.
The nine-day cycling program was held under the slogan "Cycling for Security and Stability." Beyond the physical challenge, the initiative aimed to encourage environmental protection, promote a healthy sporting culture, and strengthen unity, friendship, and solidarity among Afghan citizens.
The successful completion of the long-distance ride demonstrates the growing enthusiasm for cycling in Afghanistan and highlights the role of sport in fostering social cohesion and positive community engagement. Organizers expressed hope that similar initiatives will inspire more young people to participate in sports while contributing to national unity and raising awareness about environmental conservation.
The event reflects the increasing use of sports as a platform for promoting peace, cooperation, and healthy lifestyles across Afghanistan.
The Kabul Times

Afghanistan Secures Second Bronze Medal at Asian Wushu Championships

Afghanistan has continued its impressive run at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Asian Wushu Championships, with national athlete Shahzada Safi securing the country's second bronze medal at the prestigious regional event currently taking place in China.
Competing in the men's 56kg weight category, Safi delivered a determined performance to defeat his opponent from Kazakhstan, guaranteeing himself at least a bronze medal and adding another achievement to Afghanistan's growing success in the tournament. His victory reflects the dedication and resilience of Afghan athletes competing against some of Asia's strongest martial artists. Safi's journey is not over yet. He is scheduled to face a competitor from Hong Kong on Sunday, June 28, in a crucial bout for a place in the final and the opportunity to compete for the gold medal. The match is expected to be one of the highlights for the Afghan delegation.
Afghanistan's first bronze medal at the championships was won by Mohammad Khalid Hotak in the 70kg weight division, giving the national team an early boost and demonstrating the country's competitive strength in wushu.
The SCO Asian Wushu Championships began on June 26 and will continue until June 29, bringing together athletes from 18 countries under China's hosting. Afghanistan is represented by a six-member squad, all aiming to showcase their talent on the international stage.
The medals earned so far highlight the steady progress of Afghan wushu and offer another source of pride for the nation, as its athletes continue to raise the country's flag in major international competitions.
The Kabul Times

Natural Disasters Claim Five Lives in 8 Provinces

KABUL: At least five people have been killed following flooding, strong storms, and landslides across eight provinces in the past one day, an official confirmed on Saturday.
Hafiz Mohammad Yusuf Hammad, Director of Information and Public Relations and spokesperson for the authority, said the affected provinces include Kabul, Zabul, Kandahar, Samangan, Takhar, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar.
He added that in addition to the loss of life, the disasters caused widespread damage to property and infrastructure. According to initial assessments, 30 residential houses and 15 shops were partially destroyed, while 86 kilometers of roads were damaged.
One water supply network and a bridge were also destroyed during the same period, he said, adding that the emergency response teams have been dispatched to the affected areas to assess the damage, provide immediate assistance to affected families, and support recovery efforts.
He warned that continued rainfall and unstable weather conditions in some regions could further increase the risk of floods and landslides, urging residents in vulnerable areas to remain cautious.
The Kabul Times

UAE Apologizes For 'Incorrect' Missile Alerts

Emirati authorities apologized on Friday after "incorrect alert messages" warning of a potential missile attack caused jitters among residents.
The official messages sent to mobile phones, warning of "potential missile threats" and accompanied by a blaring siren sound, were the first in more than a month.
They became commonplace during the Middle East war, when Iran targeted the United Arab Emirates with more than 2,800 drones and missiles, most of them intercepted.
But Friday's alerts were quickly followed by another instruction to "please disregard the previous warning."
Emergency authorities later apologized for the mishap.
"The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority and the relevant entities apologizes for this unintentional technical malfunction," said a statement posted on X.
The "sudden technical malfunction in the early warning system" has been "addressed and handled via authorities," it said.
The UAE found itself on the frontline of Iran's retaliation for US-Israeli strikes that killed its supreme leader.
US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Abu Dhabi this week during a tour aimed at reassuring Gulf countries over peace talks with Iran. **Alarabiya**

Venezuelans Dig For Earthquake Survivors As 72-Hour Rescue Window Nears end

Rescuers are racing against time in Venezuela, three days after two powerful earthquakes struck, with at least 920 people confirmed dead and more than 51,000 still missing.
The twin, magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes hit on Wednesday, devastating the coastal area around La Guaira, where authorities moved on Friday night to restrict access as traffic chaos began to hamper search efforts.
With a scarcity of government rescue teams, Venezuelans have become desperate in the hardest-hit areas, digging through rubble with their hands, with aid agencies warning the critical 72-hour survival window is closing fast.
Officials said anyone who wants to enter the area around La Guaira would now have to seek official permits, but provided few details of who would be allowed in.
People reported seeing few state rescue teams in the hardest-hit areas, despite authorities projecting an image of a robust government response. "Each person saved is a miracle," said Jorge Rodriguez, president of the National Assembly.
"We are not going to hide absolutely anything about the magnitude of this tragedy."
Government forces distributed food and water to survivors in La Guaira, and Acting President Delcy Rodriguez said her government was mounting a full response during these "critical hours for rescuing people alive".
She welcomed the arrival of international rescuers and humanitarian aid.
Rodriguez said La Guaira had been "militarised" and more help was on the way, even as residents said it was just a fraction of what they needed.
Rodriguez, the former vice president, took office in January after the United States captured and removed then-President Nicolas Maduro.
Rescuers race against time in Caracas as search continues beneath collapsed buildings 'People are still terrified to re-enter what were their homes'.
Aljazeera

Afghanistan and the Prospect of...

From P3

with Afghanistan part of the solution for regional stability.
Stability in Afghanistan is not only important for the Afghan people but also essential for the security and economic development of the entire region. For this reason, many regional countries now prefer policies of engagement and cooperation
instead of confrontation.
Conclusion
Recent developments show that Afghanistan is gradually moving away from isolation and a passive role toward becoming a more active regional actor.
The main driver of this transformation is the expansion of economic, trade, transit, and cultural cooperation with neighboring countries and Central Asia. The growth of regional interactions, the development of major economic projects, and the strengthening of cultural ties have created a new opportunity for Afghanistan to redefine its place in regional affairs. If the current trend of economic cooperation and regional connectivity continues, Afghanistan could become one of the most important transit and trade routes between Central Asia and South Asia. Such a transformation would not only strengthen Afghanistan's geopolitical position but also create opportunities for economic growth, increased investment, infrastructure development, and greater domestic stability. Today, more than ever before, Afghanistan has the potential to transform itself from a crisis-affected country into an active regional actor — one whose role is defined by economic cooperation, regional connectivity, cultural interaction, and shared interests with neighbouring countries.